

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA**  
General Education Council  
Minutes of November 4, 2013

Present: Karla Davis-Salazar (chair), Maryellen Allen, Ross Andel, Dan Belgrad, Sandy Czerwinski, Katherine Davis, C. David Frankel, Hunt Hawkins, Chung Seop Jeong, Pat Jones, David Payne, Scott Rimbey, Stephan Schindler, Thomas Williams (for Michael DeJonge)

Absent: Adonis Amparo, Annette Christy, Mariam Manzur-Leiva, Gerald Woods (*all excused*)

Guests/Ex Officio/

Resource Staff: Arnie Mejias (Honors College), Janet Moore (UGS), Sue RiCharde (UGS)

1. Welcome and Announcements --The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm.
  - a. Karla Davis-Salazar announced that Annette Christy resigned from the GEC. She introduced Katie Davis from the College of Business. The chair also announced that she is available to meet with new council members one-on-one to discuss procedures, questions, etc.
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. The minutes from the October 21, 2013 meeting were approved as written.
3. Old Business
  - a. Recertification schedule
    - i. The council discussed the backlog of lower-level general education course recertifications due to the hold placed during the academic year of 2012-2013. The chair asked for the council's feedback on changing the course approval letters' recertification dates to include both the 5-year approval span, plus the amount of lag time. All lower-level recertifications from Fall 2012 forward will have their recertification dates reach through Fall 2018. This would solve the issue of some courses needing recertification after only 3 years. It would also prevent any time lapses or gaps in courses' certification periods. The council was in agreement with this plan.
4. New Business
  - a. Notification item: Remove Gordon Rule Communication status from PHI 1401 Science and Society **APPROVED**
    - i. The proposers advised the council that the Gordon Rule requirements could not be supported for this course.
  - b. Action item: Request to submit lower-level course proposal, HUM 2xxx Science, Culture, and Society, and decertify AMS 3230 America in the Twenties and Thirties (CAHU: CPE, IRD) **APPROVED (one abstention)**
    - i. Timing of decertification of the existing course and certification of the new course will need to be coordinated.
  - c. Discussion item: Capstone and Writing Intensive courses
    - i. The chair solicited the council's feedback on USF's CPST/WRIN course requirements. Discussion points:
      - Capstones are a good, culminating experience for our students.

- The students pull information from many disciplines in a Capstone, not just from within their major.
- Without these capstone courses, how will we measure what our students have learned?
- These are valuable because the students leave the University of South Florida with more broad-based knowledge.
- Some expressed that CPST courses should be within a student's major discipline, while others felt it best for these courses to be outside of the major to facilitate interdisciplinary learning. Currently students can satisfy capstone requirements with courses in or outside of the major.
- There was a suggestion that a student could take one Capstone in the major and another outside his/her discipline.
- Another suggestion was that students at least be required to take *upper-level courses* outside of their discipline, if not as Capstones.
- There was discussion about possibly having more than one Writing Intensive (WRIN) requirement, seeing as our students need improvement in this area.
- Dr. Janet Moore read from the 2005 FKL rules, in which the CPST/WRIN courses were originally to be a "culminating experience within the major or in general education."
- There was discussion about surveying students to solicit their feedback on the CPST/WRIN program.
- The council discussed initiating outcomes assessment on CPST/WRINs.
- There was a positive consensus among the council toward the CPST/WRIN program.

d. Discussion item: FKL enrollments

- i. The chair solicited the council's feedback regarding FKL enrollments. She handed out documents showing FKL enrollment data from AY 2011-2012 and AY 2012-2013. Discussion points:
  - The council asked that the data be further broken down into subtotals by Core Area, and for the addition of a year-by-year comparison.
  - There was concern regarding possible errors in the data, i.e., one course is listed as having two sections, but only one student enrolled.
  - Which of these courses are cross-listed?
  - There was discussion concerning the Provost's interest in reducing the number of general education/FKL courses at USF to increase efficiency.
  - In analyzing these enrollment data, would this be a way to identify which courses to drop? The chair expressed interest in forming a subcommittee to dig deeper into this idea.
  - There was a suggestion to 'let things happen as they happen,' in that many statewide changes are coming, as well as the QEP, which will also affect general education.

